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July 6, 2017

Brigadier General John D. Slocum
29553 George Avenue
Selfridge Air National Guard Base, MI 48045

Dear General Slocum:

The membership of the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition (MAC) wishes to voice its support to locate a squadron of F-35A Lightning II aircraft at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. MAC, an organization of business, labor, government, and education leaders from the metro Detroit area supports an ongoing mission at Selfridge.

We are aware that Selfridge is one of five finalists for the eventual location of two F-35 squadrons. We believe that Selfridge is the natural choice for one of those two squadrons. We know that site selection will be primarily based on military consideration, but please also consider the many non-military factors that make Selfridge a very desirable location.

Selfridge is located in one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country. This proximity to a large population center would provide the trained workforce for any civilian positions that may be required.

Selfridge is located in close proximity to one of the largest and most efficient airports in the country. This means easy access to all parts of the country and the world, for base personnel and their families.

The close proximity between Selfridge and Metro airport may also provides employment opportunities for military personnel trained in maintaining aircraft once their military careers have concluded.

Selfridge is in close proximity to ample affordable housing and a full spectrum of education, commercial, and recreational services, which is desirable for any personnel stationed at the base.

Our region is proud of the fact that Selfridge was one of the first military airfields in the nation. We are also proud that during World War II, we were able to produce new bombers at the rate of one every hour, something no one thought possible at the time. We believe that Detroit's century old tradition of being an integral part of our air-based national defense system should be extended into the next century with the deployment of the F-35s at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Lomako
President
Metropolitan Affairs Coalition

cc: US Senator Debbie Stabenow
US Senator Gary Peters
Congressman Sander Levin
Congressman Paul Mitchell
Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel
John Paul Rea, Director, Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development